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PCT/H

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company**Akron, Ohio 44316 - 0001**

PATENT AND TRADEMARK DEPARTMENT

CABLE ADDRESS "GOODYEAR-AKRON" U.S.A. - TELEX 66-487 OR 64-0550

Our Ref: DN1996-221USA



May 4, 1999

E1697209904US

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Re: International Patent Application No PCT/US96/19055

Dear Sirs:

- Enclosed herewith is the necessary documentation for entering the National Phase for the subject patent application.

The national phase will begin on or about May 27, 1999.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Wheeler".

D E Wheeler, Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 29,726

DEW:pp

Encls: Transmittal Letter Under 35 U.S.C. §371
 Declaration and Power of Attorney
 International Search Report (*w/references*)
 Amendments (*if any*)
 Information Disclosure Statement (*Form PTO-1449*)
 International Preliminary Examination Report
 Substitute Specification